

Editorials

Editors Meeting of the ScientificJournals in Porto, Portugal, 19 May 2007

Circulo Universitario (Rua do Campo Alegre, 877, 4150-180 Porto)

Int J LCA Session

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1065/lca2007.06.336>

On the occasion of the SETAC Europe 17th Annual Meeting in Porto, an Editors Meeting of the ScientificJournals took place. Prof. Maria Teresa Vasconcelos (ESPR Subject Editor) represented the University of Porto. It is due to Maria Teresa that we received the honour of celebrating the meeting at Circulo Universitario, the Guest House of the University. Hence the meeting as well as the reception on the evening before were embedded in an atmosphere of comfort, culture and Portuguese hospitality. Additionally, the University of Porto sponsored this event with 400 EUR. The editors of all journals wish to respectfully acknowledge the gracious support of the University and to warmly

thank Maria Teresa for her personal attention and support to make the meeting a success.

First, general issues relevant for all journals were discussed such as the continuing evolution of the ESS, the role of the Submission Editors and Referees, the referee data base and how to improve it, the quality of the review process, the impact factor, the Open Access approach.

Thereupon, the specific points of the individual journals were addressed, e.g. the frameworks and how to improve them, subject areas to be promoted, specific topics to be considered.

Topics discussed:

1. Subject Editor vs. Submission Editor
2. Framework: Editors and Areas
3. Referees
4. How to publish long papers
5. Other issues (see 5, A-E)

Ad 1) Subject Editor vs. ESS-Submission Editor

The **Subject Editor** is responsible for the development of a clearly defined thematic area in Int J LCA such as 'Land Use in LCA'. The **Submission Editor** is responsible for the review process of one specific article submitted to the journal via the Electronic Submission System (ESS).

A document describing the responsibilities of the Submission Editor has been implemented in the ESS (see 'Function'). In addition, each a document describing the responsibilities of the Referee (reviewer) and Author will be implemented.

The Subject Editor of a specific area selects the Submission Editor for a paper submitted to this area. A Subject Editor can overtake the function of a Submission Editor for a specific paper.

Ad 2) Framework: Editors and Areas

The current framework consists of 10 thematic areas headed by each a Subject Editor:

- Baitz, Martin: Data availability, data quality in LCA
- Citroth, Andreas: Uncertainties in LCA
- Gaillard, Gérard: LCA for Agriculture
- Hunkeler, David: Societal LCA
- Jungbluth, Niels: LCA for energy systems and food products
- Milà i Canals, Llorenç: Land use in LCA
- Pennington, David: EU life cycle policy and support
- Rebitzer, Gerald: Life Cycle Management
- Schweinle, Joerg: Wood and other renewable resources
- Suh, Sangwon: Input-Output and hybrid LCA

In order to reflect the thematic development within Life Cycle Assessment and closely related areas, this framework will be refined on the one hand and completed on the other hand by, e.g., more specific areas related to 'Life cycle impact assessment'. Further, due to more and more increasing submission numbers, the current Subject Editors need increased support from the Editorial Board (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/lca/editors>). Therefore, the already established cluster formation will be continued. Existing

clusters (subject areas) concern 1. 'Life Cycle Management' headed by Gerald Rebitzer and supported by Matthias Finkbeiner, Yasunari Matsuno, Wulf-Peter Schmidt and Thomas Swarr, 2. 'Wood and other renewable resources' headed by Jörg Schweinle and supported by Barbara Nebel and Frank Werner, and 3. 'Input-Output and hybrid LCA' headed by Sangwon Suh and supported by Shinichiro Nakamura. The supporting editors should come from the Editorial Board. The current Subject Editors with the Editor-in-Chief will allocate, in close agreement with the members, the Editorial Board to the areas of the framework.

When submitting the abstract, the author will have the possibility to indicate the cluster (subject area) that he/she feels to be best suitable for the paper. The Submission Editor will check/revise the suggested area after the manuscript has been uploaded. Manuscripts that cannot be assigned to a specific cluster (subject area) will be processed outside the cluster structure.

Ad 3) Acknowledgement for referees

The Submission Editor selects and invites the Referees. While the Submission Editor is acknowledged in the article, referees will receive recognition in the last issue of one volume. On request, they can obtain a written confirmation of their review work.

Ad 4) How to publish long papers

To avoid papers exceeding the size limit of 8 layout pages, authors are invited and requested to present background and supporting information as an Appendix to be published in the Online Edition only (referred to in the printed version). Though already included, this point will additionally be emphasized in the AuthorGuidelines.

Ad 5) Other issues

A) OnlineFirst articles and ISI Web of Science (Web of Knowledge, Science Citation Index expanded)

1. An overview of OnlineFirst articles (authors, year of OnlineFirst publication, title, journal, DOI) will be published in every issue of the journals.
2. OnlineFirst articles cannot contribute to the Impact Factor calculation which requires the number of articles per volume/year. They can, however, be integrated in the ISI Web of Science indexing.
3. It seems to be possible to make ISI refer either to the printed or the online version as basis for their indexing. The online version would be more appropriate in terms of avoiding mistakes. Moreover, the online versions increasingly provide supplementary information not included in the printed versions (online appendices).
4. We will check with ISI the current subject categories for Int J LCA in the citation index.

B) Endnote

To assist submission editors, referees and authors, endnote databases with published articles of all journals will be made available to be accessed via the welcome pages of the journals. It will include all articles, not only the peer-reviewed papers, and be updated every 3 months.

C) Special Issues

We have to differentiate between real special issues, i.e. additional editions, and thematic issues within the regular number of editions. Additional issues need to be funded. The features to be considered will be covered in an Editorial for one of the forthcoming issues.

For special issues, the high-quality standard has to be guaranteed. Very specific topics should not be addressed in special issues. The LCA-Special Issue 1/2006 (Honouring Helias A. Udo de Haes) with its broad thematic scope was highly accepted. This issue is available via SpringerLink.

Thematic issues within the regular number of editions have to be planned fairly in advance, e.g. No. 1/2006 (Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in a Life-cycle Perspective).

In either case, thematic sets of papers from conferences have to be handled most carefully in terms of a strict and formal peer-review process.

D) Open Access

1. The open-access approach as has been established in the journals was accepted: **OpenAccess** is a pay-to-publish service from ScientificJournals that offers authors, whose papers are accepted for publication, the opportunity to pay up-front for their manuscript to become open access (i.e. free for all to view and download) via scientificjournals.com. Each **OpenAccess** article will be subject to a one-off fee of Euro 1,750.00, excluding colour charges, to be met by or on behalf of the Author in advance of publication. Upon OnlineFirst publication, the article will be available to all for viewing and download free of charge. The print version of the article will also be branded as **OpenAccess** and will draw attention to the fact that the paper can be downloaded for free via www.scientificjournals.com.
2. For promotion purposes, one open-access article per issue and journal will be provided (see this issue, pp. 239–251).

E) Language Quality

The Editor-in-Chief, the Submission Editor and the Publisher-Editor have to ensure that the language quality of the manuscript is appropriate before it is sent to the referees. If the author cannot provide a suitable version, the manuscript should be language edited, charged to the author (25.00 Euro per hour), prior to the review process.